

REMARKS

Of the 38 original claims, claims 1, 6, 7, 16, 17, 19, 20, 29, 32 and 33 are amended herein. With this response, claims 1-38 are now pending.

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found within the specification as originally filed. Specifically, support for the amendment to claims 1 and 17 to more clearly define the functional monomer as a monomer comprising both an acetoacetoxy functionality and a (meth)acrylate functionality can be found within the specification on page 2, lines 10-14, wherein the monomers listed have both acetoacetoxy functionality and (meth)acrylate functionality. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 17 regarding the incorporation of diluents into the coating composition can be found in the specification on page 2, lines 14-15. Claims 16 and 29 have been amended to correct the claim's antecedent basis, based upon the amendments to claims 1 and 17, respectively. Support for the amendment to claims 6-7, 19-20, and 32-33 can be found on page 4, line 15 through page 5, line 5 of the specification.

The specification has also been amended, in order to correct a typographical error. Applicant contends that no new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to deduct any fees relating to this document required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 from Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice Deposit Account No. 09-0528, referencing matter number 38367.0008.1.

I. Allowance of claims

Applicant thankfully acknowledges the allowance of claims 30, 31 and 34-38.

II. Claim objections

Claims 16 and 29 were objected to as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 17, to which claims 16 and 29 respectively depend, have been amended. Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1 and 17 are allowable in view of the above amendments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to claims 16 and 29 be withdrawn.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-15 and 17-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being non-enabling for any monomer with an acetoacetoxy functionality, but without (meth)acrylate functionality.

The presently pending claims have been amended with this communication as suggested by the Examiner. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 17, respectively, have been amended to state that the coating composition for use in forming a craft coating on a substrate comprises a functional monomer having both an acetoacetoxy functionality and a (meth)acrylate functionality. Accordingly, the rejections are obviated.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-15 and 17-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 6-7, 19-20 and 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being allegedly indefinite in pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that on pages 4 and 5 of the specification, curing at ambient temperature, T, takes 17-25 days, whereas curing by heat takes 1-2 hours, indicating that it is unclear what the scope of the claims is with regard to the curing of the coating of the present invention.

Claims 6, 19 and 32 have been amended to state that the curing process comprises at least partially curing the craft coating by exposure to ambient air for a period of 1 to 2 hours. Support for these amendments are found on page 5, lines 3-4 of the specification. As described therein, and as reflected in the claims as amended, the coating compositions of Applicant's invention can be cured in "ambient air" for a period of time comprising a matter of hours (e.g., 1-2 hours), in which time the craft coating "at least dries and can partially cure" [page 5, lines 3-4]. The coating can then further cured by heating, or by further exposure to "ambient air". Similarly, claims 7, 20 and 33 have been amended to reflect that the craft coating can be cured by exposure to ambient air for periods of time from 17 to 25 days, as described on page 4, lines 23-24. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection is obviated, and requests that the rejections of claims 6-7, 19-20, and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

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In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections are respectfully requested. All amendments are made in a

good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicant respectfully submits that no amendments have been made to the pending claims for the purpose of overcoming any prior art rejections that would restrict the literal scope of the claims or equivalents thereof. Applicant reserves the right to subsequently take up prosecution of the claims originally filed in this application in continuation, continuation-in-part, and/or divisional applications.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned should any further action be required for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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